

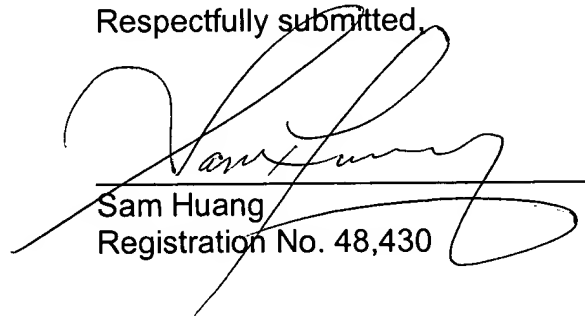
## **REMARKS**

The following remarks are fully and completely responsive to the Office Action dated December 16, 2003. Claims 28-42 and 46 were pending in this application. In the outstanding Office Action, claims 28-32, 34, 37, 38, 40 and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and claim 33 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Applicants take the opportunity to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 35, 36, 39, 42 and 46 contain allowable subject matter, and in light of the Amendment dated October 23, 2003 placing these claims in independent form, they are in condition for allowance. Claims 28-34, 37, 38, 40 and 41 have been canceled, and therefore the rejections with respect to these claims are now moot.

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney by telephone if it is believed that such contact will expedite the prosecution of the application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment for any additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300, making reference to attorney docket number 108324-00001.

Respectfully submitted,



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